PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CLIII.

INDIA IS NOW MUCH STRONGER.

F.-M. WAVELL'S FAREWELL ORDER OF THE DAY.

H. M. the King-Emperor has been pleased to call upon me to become Viceroy and Governor-General of India in succession to H. E. Lord Linlithgow, in October next. I have therefore, laid down the office of C.-in-C. in India, but I look forward to the opportunity, which has thus been given to me, of rendering further service to India and I shall endeavour to the utmost of my ability to discharge faithfully my new responsibilities to the King-Emperor and to the Indian people. I shall, naturally continue to have always at heart the interests of the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the Forces in India whose magnificent work and qualities I have known and appreciated during all my military career, and particularly in the years of this war, when they have served me so well and faithfully in the Middle East, India and elsewhere.

Gen. Auchinleck, who is now again your C.-in-C., is well known to you all by his achievements on the battlefields of this war and by his long service with the Indian Army. No one could be more fitted, by gifts and by experience, to be your C.-in-C., and his return will be as welcome to all of you, as it is to me.

INDIA STRONGER.

During the 2 years in which I have had the honour to be your Commander, India has faced greater perils from without than at any time in the past 200 years. Although these dangers have not been entirely removed, they have been held in check, and Indian soil has been preserved from enemy invasion.

" Meanwhile, as a result of your exertions, and of the victories won by the United Nations in other theatres of war, India has become immeasurably stronger. Substantial reinforcements, both of men and supplies, and many squadrons of modern aircraft have been brought to India's shores.

The Indian Army, reinforced by troops provided by the Indian Princes and by H. H. the Maharaja of Nepal, has grown into a great Force equipped with modern weapons and trained in modern war.

The Royal Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, both vastly increased in numbers have rendered notable service beside the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

The efforts of civilians of all classes in many varied fields of activity have made possible the creation of the large Forces which India now disposes. India's war production has grown to great dimensions. A well organised Civil Defence Organisation has been created.

FOR VICTORY.

India is now strong. If, then, all continue, with undaunted will, to do their duty, there need be no fear for India's safety. Great efforts are still needed to bring the war to a successful conclusion and to remove from Asia the threat of Japanese domination. We will all work together to bring this about.

I thank you all for the loyal service which you have given under my Command, and I send you my good wishes in whatever tasks you may be called upon to undertake.

To the British troops in India serving so far from their homes, I can send a message of assurance that the importance of their work in defending India and in preparing to defeat Japan, is fully realised by their comrades in the United Kingdom.

The reward of long endeavours, of British and Indians alike, will come in the sure and last victory of a righteous and just cause.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

26—6—43 to 2—7—43.

Germany.—The air-raids on the RUHR are continuing. Aerial photographs show that the recent attacks have been devastating, particularly on the factories at DUSSELDORF, HULS and ANTWERP. On June 22, MULHEIM, the steel town was attacked. On June 24, changing the strategy, giant, multi-engined bombers, flying from British air-fields bombed the radio location plant at FRIEDRICHSHAVEN and instead of returning home, flew on, to N. AFRICA, and after resting there for a while, visited ITAAY and bombed SPEZIA, before finally returning to their base, ELBERFIELD (the W. half of WUPPERTAL) and ANTWERP were raided on the 24th; the BOCHUM-GELSENKIRCHEN area on the 25th; ABBEVILLE, BERNAY and LA TREPORT on the 26th; and COLOGNE on the 28th.

Italy.—The Allied air-attacks on the Italian mainland and islands continue with devastating effect. All the important towns are under orders of evacuation. The principal targets of the week were NAPLES, CANCELLO, SALERNO, BATTIPAGLA, FERRA ANUNCIATA, REGGIO DI CALABRIA, MESSINA and CATAMIA.

Middle East based bombers making a round trip of 1,100 miles across the Mediterranean and over Axis occupied territory smashed the air-field at SEDES, south of SALONIKA. On June 29, the air-fields at ELEUSIS and HASSANI near ATHENS were bombed. On the 28th LEGHORN, SAN, GIOVANNI, OLIBA, VENAFIONITA and ALGHERO FERTILLA were raided.

Russia.—There is accumulating evidence, says a special correspondent in *the Daily Express* that German troops are being transferred from central GERMANY and the East to meet invasion threats in W. and S. EUROPE. The chief attack of the week has been in the Orel region. Fighting also flared up on the KALININ and KARELIAN fronts, and in the SMOLENSK, SYEVSK, DONETZ and KUBAN areas.

The Pacific.—Between May 1 and June 26, 455 Japanese aircraft were destroyed or damaged, at the cost of 17 Allied aircraft, the average Japanese loss being about 8 a day during the past 8 weeks. On June 24, Allied Liberators attacked a Japanese cruiser and a merchantman in the Macassar Straits. On the same day Japanese positions in WOODU Island in the MUBO area, were attacked; as also an escorted convoy of 3 Japanese ships near Cape St. George (N. IRELAND). On the 25th Japanese bases in MADANG (N. GUINEA) and the SOLOMONS, in the KAHILI, BUIN and MUNDA areas and BUKA Island were raided. Later, BALLALE, VILA, KISKA, MARKHAM, RAMU, KAHILI, REKATA were attacked.

News has come of a large scale Allied offensive in S. W. Pacific. American forces have occupied RENDOVA in the SOLOMONS, VIRU in the NEW GEORGIA Islands, and TROBRIAND and WOODLARK island groups off the south coast of, and NASSAU Bay on the N. coast, of N. GUINEA; and are shelling MUNDA (N. GEORGIA). Australian patrols are attacking Japanese forces in the SALAMUA area in N. GUINEA.

China.—The 14 U. S. Army Air Force raided a number of Japanese-held towns in the S. HUPEH battle area and damaged a Japanese warship on the Yangtse.

The Chinese have captured TIKO, the Japanese stronghold in E. HONAN and attacked SHUKANG and YANGTICHLING in the same area. By capturing TOUHUIT, east of KUNGEN, near the S. bank of the Yangtse, they have cut off the Japanese supply line between MITOSSU and ONCHIKOW. They have also beaten back a series of enemy thrusts along the Yangtse in the ANHWEI, HUPEH and HUNAN provinces. The Chinese offensive along the N. W. shores of Tungting Lake on the Yangtse front is making rapid progress. Further south they have reoccupied the Yangtse crossings, S. W. of SHIPHOW and are storming HUAYUNG.

The Japanese are reported to be moving their troops westward from NANKING into the HANKOW area for a fresh drive up the Yangtse.

Burma.—The general situation in the Chin Hills is one of quiet. In three encounters severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy. A successful action was carried out in the Kabaw valley. A number of heavy attacks were made in the KALAMYO area. The railroad yards at MANDALAY, railway sheds at KANBYU, railway tracks at TRIDEINVAN, the Shweli bridge, and the railroad installation at KINUA were raided early in the week. On June 25 air attacks were made on a train at THANBYUZAYA, on buildings at MONYWA and railway installations at YWATUNG. On June 27 the objective was AKYAB Island. On June 27, the cotton mills of MYINGYAN, the railway station at SEDAW, the railway installation at MONYWA, the railroad construction base at THANBYUZAYAT, DIAMOND Island, railroad yards at PYINMANA and SAGAING and the cantonment at MAIKILA were raided. On June 28, AKYAB and MYOHAUNG were attacked and 50 sampans and sandoway boats were hit and damaged.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

21—6—43. (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—(2 Allied planes missing).
Shipping off TEXEL.
Railway engines in Northern FRANCE.
NIGHT:—(44 Allied planes missing).
The industrial town of KREFELD (Germany).
Railway targets in FRANCE and BELGIUM.
Enemy air-field at POIX.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Railway yards at REGGIO DI CALABRIA and SAN GIOVANNI.
Road transport in SICILY.
Rail communications in South ITALY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.
Enemy air-fields and fuel dumps in occupied RUSSIA.

FAR EAST.

Enemy air-field and barracks at KOEPANG.
Jap barges off RAGUNEN Point (N. Britain).
SALAMAUA area (N. Guinea).
Jap installations at MUNDA (N. Georgia).
The engine sheds at THAZI (Burma).
The railway junction at MYINGYAN (Burma).

22—6—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

Day:—
The synthetic rubber factory at HULS.
The General Motor plant near ANTWERP.
Ship yards at ROTTERDAM.
NIGHT:—
The Ruhr steel town of MULHEIM (Germany).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Marshalling yards at SALERNO (Italy).
An Axis vessel in the AEGEAN Sea.
Targets in SICILY.
The docks at OLBIA (Sardinia).
The air-field at COMISO (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.
Enemy air-fields and the railway junction of PSCOV.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at KIETA (Bougainville Island) and KAHILI (Buin area).
The Japanese sea plane base at TABERFANE (Arce Islands).
Jap position in the MUBO area (N. Guinea).
Enemy installations at MONYWA (Burma).

23—6—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The Italian naval base of SPEZIA (Italy).
An enemy tanker off the coast of SICILY.
Railway sidings at POZZALLO.
Marshalling yards at CATANIA (Sicily).
Railroad junction at CHILIVANI (Sardinia).
The air-field at VENAFLORITA (Sardinia).
Shipping at ARANCI (Sardinia).
Landing grounds at CAPOTERRA (Sardinia).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.
Trains at ORSHA.
Ammunition dumps at KARACHEV.

FAR EAST.

A Jap cruiser and a merchantman in the MACASSAR Straits.
The town of and docks and shipping at MACASSAR.
Jap held towns in South HUPEH area (China).
Railroad yards at MANDALAY (Burma).
Railroad sheds at KANBYU (Burma).
Railway tracks at TINDEINVAN (Burma).
Railroad installations at KINU (Burma).

24—6—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Oil storage tanks and docks at FLUSHING (Belgium).
The air-field at CHERBOURG (France).
Marshalling yards at ST. OMER (France).
Air-fields at FORT ROUGE and ABBEVILLE.
Offensive sweeps over BELGIUM and HOLLAND.
NIGHT:—
The German industrial area of ELBERFELD (Ruhr).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The air-field at SEDES (Greece).
The railway junction of CHILIVANI (Sardinia).
The port of OLBIA (Sardinia).
Air-fields in SARDINIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Supply and fuel dumps at SALAMAUA (New Guinea).
Jap positions in the MUBO area and WOODU Island (New Guinea).
A Jap barge off VANGUNU Island.
KISKA (Aleutians.)
Diamond Island (Burma).

25—6—43 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Targets in Northwest GERMANY (18 Allied planes missing).
The air field at CAEN (France).
NIGHT:—
Rich German coal centre of BOCHUM (Ruhr).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Railway yards and docks at MESSINA (Sicily).
REGGIO DI CALABRIA (Italy).
Docks at OLBIA (Sardinia).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.
The railway junctions of BRYANSK (occupied RUSSIA).
The railway station at NAVLYA (occupied RUSSIA).

FAR EAST.

Jap held villages in the MADANG area (New Guinea).
A Jap cargo ship off New IRELAND.
Jap installations at BUKA, KAHILI and MUNDA BAY area (all in Solomons).
KISKA (Aleutions).
Enemy barracks at THANBYUZAYA (Burma).
Radio installations on the Diamond Island (near Rangoon).
Buildings at MONYWA and MANDALAY Ghats (Burma).
Railway installations at YUATAUNG (Burma).

26—6—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Air-fields in Northern FRANCE.
Marshalling yards at LE TREPORT.
The air-field ABBEVILLE (France).

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.
Air-fields in Northern FRANCE.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Patrolling around SICILY and Sardinia (2 Axis planes shot down).
Dock area and marshalling yards at NAPLES (Italy).

RUSSIA

(For the week 19-6-43 to 26-6-43 Russians lost 74 planes; Axis lost 211 planes).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.
The railway junction at OREL.
Axis air-fields around OREL.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions on BALLALE (Shortlands) and POPORANG (Shortlands).
MUNDA (N. Georgia Island).
VILA (Kolombangara Island).
KISKA (Aleutians).
Villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).
Diamond Island (Burma).
MOULMEIN (Burma).

27—6—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied)

DAY:—
Enemy shipping off the DUTCH coast.
Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.
An air-field near PARIS (France).
Railway targets in HOLLAND and BELGIUM.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The air-field at GERBINI (Sicily).
A vessel north of LEVKAS Island.
The air-fields at EL EUSIS and HASSANI (Greece).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.
Axis air-fields in occupied RUSSIA.

FAR EAST.

Enemy occupied town of POSSARK (Saumbaki).
An enemy cargo ship in the BUKA passage.
Enemy villages in the MARKHAM-RAMU valley (N. Guinea).
The air-field at SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).
Enemy positions in the PIMPLE Hill area (N. Guinea).
KISKA (Aleutians)
Troops and buildings on the AKYAB Island (Burma).
Offensive patrols over the MAYU Peninsula (Burma).
Akyab Island and the LOWER CHINDWIN area (Burma).
KAHILI-BUIN area and MUNDA (N. Georgia).
The cantonment area at MEIKTILA (Burma).
Cotton mills at MYINGYAN (Burma).
Railroad at MANDALAY (Burma).
Enemy installations at THANBYUIAYT (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

22—6—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

Scattered points on the South and South-east coasts of ENGLAND.

RUSSIA.

A locality near LENINGRAD.

FAR EAST.

Allied forward position in the MUBO area (N. Guinea).

23—6—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

A town in north-east ENGLAND.

RUSSIA.

Localities near LENINGRAD.

FAR EAST.

Air combat over RUSSEL Island (1 Jap plane shot down).

24—6—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

HULL (England).

RUSSIA.

LENINGRAD area.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

25—6—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions on the UPPER DONETZ area.

FAR EAST.

Allied position in the MUBO area (N. Guinea).
American position on the RUSSEL Island.

26—6—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

Reconnaissance over the OREL Sector.

FAR EAST.

A light surface craft off the SOLOMONS.

27—6—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

DAY:—
LONDON area (only an alert).

NIGHT:—
No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

A locality near LENINGRAD.

FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

28—6—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

RUSSIA.

Dog fights over the approaches to LENINGRAD.

FAR EAST.

PORT DARWIN (Australia) (6 Jap planes destroyed).

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE INVASION FEAR. 'The avenging shadow', said Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for INDIA, speaking at BIRMINGHAM, on June 26, 'is cast far over the enemy's land. Our enemies, once so arrogant are now cowering behind their breast works, disturbed and apprehensive, not knowing where to meet the blows that are soon to rain on them.'

Dr. Goebbels, too, is well aware of the impending catastrophe. Of late his lies have turned to wails. Speaking at Munich on June 25, he lamented, 'Europe's very life-roots are being attacked'. Writing in the *Das Reich* he has warned his countrymen. 'The Anglo-American invasion attempt may well be a prelude to a decision in the war. GERMANY has no wish to doubt that the Anglo-American powers possess enough shipping and armed forces to land at any given point in EUROPE.'

German military circles believe that Allied Middle East preparations are nearing completion and that the British 8th Army is being transferred to this area, to augment the strength of the 9th and 10th Armies. In ROME, Italian newspapers have issued the warning that the preparations for an invasion of ITALY have been completed.

The world is agape and expectant, wondering where the blow will fall but for ourselves we would prefer to stand a little apart from the multitude of war speculators and star-gazers and ask the reader to contemplate the Herculian task on which the Allies are about to enter.

Continental EUROPE is neither PANTELLARIA nor LAMPEDUSA; nor even N. AFRICA. Since PANTELLARIA and LAMPEDUSA fell Italian resistance has stiffened in SICILY and SARDINIA. It took the Allies six months after EL ALAMEIN to conquer N. AFRICA, though they had their own landing-grounds and overland communications. For an assault on EUROPE Allied forces and supplies must be carried across the sea. There are only two positions—either BRITAIN or N. AFRICA, from which the Axis could be invaded. Opposite to BRITAIN, which is the nearer and better equipped base, the enemy has been building up his fortifications for the past three years. Southern EUROPE—the Axis underside—though move vulnerable, is also more distant from the N. African base. Further an attack on ITALY, or southern FRANCE or the BALKANS cannot be an end in itself but only be the prelude to an invasion of Hitlerite GERMANY. Thus, if the Allied invasion has not come off yet and preparations are still being made there are good reasons.

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THE AIR WAR. Hans Von Platow, the German war reporter, broadcasting on June 24 on Allied air raids on GERMANY, said:—'I saw Warsaw after it was conquered. I saw Calais after every single house had had to be stormed, one after another. I saw many Russian towns, which the Soviets had transferred into fortresses, and which were bombed and shelled accordingly. But what I have seen at every stop in western Germany is worse than anything I have seen anywhere'. Another German reporter speaking over the radio on the same day observed, 'the raids on the RUHR are real blows; the battle simply goes beyond human description. Multi-engined bombers are now dropping thousands of tons of bombs over places where, a year ago, only scores of tons fell; and yet, heavy as these attacks are, we are told that

they are going to be intensified by 45% more from next mouth. New bombing techniques are being employed. The other day—June 24th, bombing history was made when R. A. F. bombers flying from British air-fields bombed the radio location plant at FRIEDRICHSHAVEN on the shores of lake Constance, crossed over to N. AFRICA and raided SPEZIA in ITALY on their return journey.

The RUHR is the worst sufferer. It is attacked every-day now. 100,000 people are awaiting evacuation from the area. The aim of these vertical attacks is various—to destroy the coal production of the area, and thereby, the steel and arms production. Since March 5, when the systematic attack of the RUHR, began with the raid on ESSEN, 21 big assaults have been carried out, on the 1,000 to 2,000 tons scale and at least 11 important industrial centres have been put almost out of production.'

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THE RUHR. Western GERMANY on which the R. A. F. raids are now concentrated—the RUHR, as it is vaguely termed, is the home of German coal and iron production. Most of the targets mentioned in the news are inside a circle in the Rhine basin, some 40 miles in diameter and with its centre at WUPPERTAL. Inside this circle lie COLOGNE, GELSENKIRCHEN, DUISBURG, DORTMUND, BOCHUM, ESSEN and OBERHAUSEN. Of them, the last four belong to the valley of the Ruhr river which joins the Rhine near DUISBURG. The RUHR area includes the iron and steel works in the *Ennepe Strasse*, the valley of the river Ennepe—a tributary of the Ruhr and here stand BOCHUM and DORTMUND, at the centre of coalfields, while a little farther away, lies HAMM, the main junction of the Ruhr railways. In the Rhine valley proper lie COBLENZ, COLOGNE, WUPPERTAL (BARMEN-ELBRFIELD), SOLINGEN, DUSSELDORF and KREFELD. DUSSELDORF is the nerve-centre of the Ruhr and Rhine armament plants.

The Ruhr—Rhine industrial area is less than two hours' flight from BRITAIN and produces three-fourths of GERMANY'S iron, steel and coal. Here are also situated important chemical works. Though the Germans may transfer their junkers aircraft industry to far away DESAU and the Hermann Goering works to LINZ in AUSTRIA, though they may frantically reopen closed factories in POLAND or build under-ground work-shops, they can, by no means, transfer their smelting and blasting furnaces from the RUHR. Thus the destruction of the RUHR is, in a way, the conquest of GERMANY.

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RUSSIA. June has come and gone and yet there is no sign of a German offensive. By this time, last year, the Germans had started on their mad adventure against STALINGRAD and GROZNY. Hitler's operations on the Eastern front are still confined to local clashes and these, too, have been costly. In the period of comparative quiet, after the Russian winter offensive, in two months, Hitler has lost, in dead alone, 3 to 4 divisions, along the Russian front from LENINGRAD to the Black Sea.

The enemy's delay is no doubt due to hesitation and fear, to bitter experience and to the growing Russian strength. Experience has brought the realisation that even conquests, do not pay. Last winter the Russians wiped out the German gains of the preceding summer and inflicted casualties totalling a million men. Another ground for apprehension, now presenting itself terribly, is the fear of an Allied invasion on the southern and western flank.

RUSSIA, now aided, more than ever, by the Allies enters the third year of war, with more confidence than ever. This time, last year, though she had prevented the *blitz* on MOSCOW, she was nervous and uncertain. To-day, with her winter triumphs, and with the Allied victories in N. AFRICA, she awaits the enemy with confidence and hope.

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THE ALGIERS COMPROMISE. Thanks to Allied intervention and pressure the differences between Generals de-Gaulle and Giraud seem to be on the way to a settlement. A decree issued from ALGIERS on June 22 announces the setting up of a permanent, Military Committee for Fighting France composed of the two Generals, and their Chiefs of Staff. Giraud will continue to be the Commander-in-Chief of the N. and W. African armies, and de-Gaulle, of the armies in other French territories. The two Commanders will work in association and their forces will receive their pay from a common exchequer, and be under the French Committee of National Liberation.

We welcome the agreement, with relief, coming as it does, after months of unseemly squabbling for place and power; we welcome it, as none too early, at a time when the decks are being cleared for an invasion of EUROPE and united action among the Allies was never so vital. We do not mean that the Generals have closed their ranks now and settled all their differences. There are still difficulties about the future constitution of Metropolitan France; the Generals have also their different plans for the improvement of the French army; de-Gaulle advocates immediate mechanisation and the appointment of youthful officers; Giraud favours a gradual reform. The supreme question, who is to be, eventually the Commander-in-Chief, also remains.

Let us hope that in spite of the dual control the complications of a double government will not appear. We are glad that so far common sense has prevailed and led to a compromise.

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THE MEDITERRANEAN, rightly called the Waters of Destiny, is now playing a fateful part in the war. The American Fleet is reported to have arrived here to assist the Royal Navy. German and Italian submarines are being recalled to the Mediterranean. Since Paris stole Helen and took her to TROY the Battle of the Mediterranean has decided the fate of nations and States. Along its shores have risen and perished the Persian, the Phoenician, the Greecian, and the Roman empires. Here rose and fell VENICE and GENOA. Here came the Goth, the Vandal and the Arab. With the opening of the Suez canal it became the highway between the East and the West. Here again is now fought the battle of freedon against the Axis.

Royally, in the midst of it, stands MALTA, symbol of BRITAIN's enduring strength on the sea. This tiny island, barely a hundred square miles in area has braved and braves the combined might of GERMANY and ITALY. It has withstood aerial attacks of greater weight and persistence than any other area of similar size has known. Upto October 1942, 3,000 air-raid alerts had been sounded, 1,666 bombing attacks had been made, 1,400 persons killed and 6,600 buildings destroyed, while she herself shot more than a 1,000 enemy bombers from the skies. Still MALTA carries on; from the defensive she has now changed to the offensive, pounding the Axis Mediterranean bases. Proud recipient, among the territories of the Empire, of the Victoria Cross, she has now had the rare honour of His Majesty's visit.

THE BALKANS. While ITALY is the most obvious MEDITERRANEAN invasion area, the BALKANS, for strategic reasons, would appear to be the more suitable. Let us not forget that two years ago, the Germans, prior to their invasion on RUSSIA, sealed this front and that, in order to come to the relief of RUSSIA, the Allies will now have to break open this door. Moreover, the BALKANS are now the softest spot in EUROPE's underbelly, where ITALY cannot maintain its hold without Nazi help, and where the *Luftwaffe* is at its weakest. Here the Allies may also expect a landslide. Following the first Allied successes in this area, BULGARIA, RUMANIA and HUNGARY may desert the Axis, one after another. HUNGARY is inside the Axis only under duress. Discontent is rife in RUMANIA. CROATIA has an economic crisis. Insurgent risings are reported from SLAVONIA, SERBIA and BOSNIA. The defiant attitude of GREECE is known. In the words of *Ulus*, ' the German military might is still formidable, but the difficulties and responsibilities besetting it to-day have assumed proportions admitting of no comparison with those of 4 years ago. The occupied countries are now nothing but a series of ambushes. In case of invasion, the Germans will have to take measures, not only against the invading armies but against acts committed by the subjugated peoples.'

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THE MIDDLE EAST. Significantly enough, important things are happening in the MIDDLE East, which blocks the German eastward expansion by being linked up with TURKEY and RUSSIA, and where exist the great Persian-Iraq sources of oil supply delivering 15,000,000 tons annually. It has now been converted into a powerful base from which may be launched an invasion of South-Eastern EUROPE. Four months ago, Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Commander-in-Chief in the MIDDLE EAST, reported on the completion of the base installations here. Last month, Civil and Military Chiefs assembled in CAIRO, declared that ' the United Nations have great forces in the MIDDLE EAST and the MIDDLE EAST is an armed camp and a great base.' Here the 9th Army based on PALESTINE stands ready for action ; the 10th Army waits in PERSIA and IRAQ ; and to this area the 8th Army, it is reported, is being transferred. The Royal Navy has its bases at HAIFA and BEIRUT.

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THE U. S. COAL STRIKE. The coal miners' strike in the U. S. A. which has been in progress during the past three months has assumed unhealthy proportions to the detriment of war production. The dearth of coal has affected the steel industry. Mr. John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers' Union, agitating nominally for wage increase, is politically challenging the U. S. President's authority. He has refused to accept the jurisdiction of the War Labour Board. He has defied Mr. Harold Ickes, the States Coal Administrator. The Axis gloats over the situation. Mr. Lewis's attitude is treason. To make matters worse, the Congress has taken an attitude which may aggravate the evil. But President Roosevelt is a strong man. The miners are reported to be reverting to common sense, and to show a tendency to return to work.

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SALUTE THE BRAVE. During his recent N. African visit His Majesty pinned the Victoria Cross on Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles, for ' outstanding gallantry '. He won his fame at RASSI-Zondi when regardless of his own safety he reached and killed his enemy. The official citation says his leadership and gallantry had ' a decisive effect on the success of the whole operation.'

The latest tribute to the Indian soldiers is from Field Marshal Wavell, Viceroy Designate. In his statement on June 22 he said, 'I should like to take this opportunity again to pay a tribute to the valour and loyalty of the Indian forces in the war. It is to the troops from INDIA that I am largely indebted for such military successes as I have been able to win.'

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WAR EFFORT IN PUDUKKOTTAI. In order to conserve the produce of grain in the State and regulate its distribution, the Darbar have ordered the freezing of grains in excess of the personal needs of the peasants. They are to be released only under Darbar's orders.

Owing to shortage of pie pieces in the State Treasuries the Government have ordered that all amounts due to, and all payments made by, the Government shall be rounded to the nearest half-anna, the exceptions being the amounts fixed by statute or contract, and transactions by book transfer.

"AFRICA STAR" AND "1939-1943 STAR."

HIS MAJESTY'S MESSAGE TO GEN. EISENHOWER.

Will you kindly convey the following message to the three British Commanders-in-Chief and to the British forces under your supreme command:

During the long years of the N. African campaign—with its fluctuating fortunes—it was my constant hope that I might one day be able to come and see for myself the scenes of some of the famous, and hard fought battles—and, still more, those who had taken part in them.

My wish has now been gratified and it has been my happy experience to be the bearer of the congratulations of all the peoples of the Empire on a victory which will shine in military history.

This victory, I have decided to commemorate by the issue, in the near future, of a Star to be known as the Africa Star while another, to be known as the 1939–43 Star, will be the reward of those in all my services who have taken part in hard fighting in other theatres of war.

CONFIDFNCE IN VICTORY.

Throughout my tour it afforded me intense pleasure to see the war-hardened men of the three British services, veterans of the Libyan Desert, as well as their comrades from the west, in such high spirits and good health—and to realise that they are working in the closest harmony, not only with each other, but with the forces of our Allies, both in, and out of battle.

Moreover, everything that I saw when I was privileged to be the guest of our United States and French Allies, has served only to strengthen my confidence in the complete and final victory of the United Nations.

Heavy tasks still lie before the armies of N. Africa, but it is plain to me that nothing will stop the gallant men of the United Nations who have already triumphed over so much.

To these men and to their skilful commanders, I would ask you to express my gratitude for the past, and my heartfelt good wishes for the future.

VICTORY IS IN SIGHT.

Field-Marshal Smuts—June 26.

We now have developed our full resources for the fight and the enemy has passed his zenith and is on the down grade. But the Nazi and Fascist leaders are desperate men when appalling fate is staring them in the face and they will drive their peoples on to the fight with the courage of despair before the final knock-out takes place.

Even if they have lost all hope of victory, as they probably have, they will continue to fight for the sake of universal exhaustion, stalemate, and a compromise peace, which would give them a breathing space, before resuming the struggle later under more favourable conditions for them.

For the stability and progress of western civilisation nothing could be worse than an armed peace followed by another desperate conflict.

Victory complete and unconditional, is in sight for us, but the main struggle on the Continent of Europe is still to come—this year and, perhaps to be continued to its conclusion next year.

For that struggle the Allies are now marshalling all their man-power and material resources. The great hour is approaching. There is a hush of expectancy in men's hearts.

CONQUEST OF SICILY MAY TAKE TIME.

HARD LAND FIGHTING INEVITABLE.

(The Daily Express).

The force of the air " softening up " of Sicily—together with the island's geography—suggests that Sicily is next on General Eisenhower's list.

It may be a pointer that our bombers are concentrating on the western side of the island because it is on this part of the coast that landings could most easily be made. At the same time assaults on the Messina Strait train-ferry crossing are being continued because that is the one regular supply link that the island has with the Italian mainland. The way our bombs are being distributed could be a pattern for the Allied invasion.

Suppose that this is the plan (and of course, it is a surmise) what is the task for our forces ?

It is one of great difficulty. Sicily is almost as big as Belgium and its territory, mountainous and rocky, is practically all above sea level. The western shores are the most vulnerable because they are nearest to the Allied bases and are fairly flat. But even then there are only two reasonably good ports—at Marsala and Trapani—and a bridge-head established at either of these would be the farthest possible points from Italy's coast.

German technicians directed fortifications of the island which include underground aircraft hangars and many batteries of guns. There are probably *Luftwaffe* troops on the island and from four to six Italian divisions—a force up to 100,000 men. Given good fighting qualities that army in theory should be large enough to repulse initial landings. There is little doubt that the enemy is husbanding air-strength.

The success of an invasion attempt might be dependent on two factors : (1) knocking out batteries and airfields by sea and air arms ; (2) severing the Messina Strait lifeline.

It is, to put it as an understatement, unlikely that sea and air power could conquer Sicily. Hard land fighting appears to be inevitable. Some experts have calculated that we might lose up to 50 per cent of our landing craft in the initial landings. Grounding of a large part of the enemy's aircraft seems a necessary preliminary to invasion and that takes time. Any attack that may be coming is, therefore, perhaps scheduled for a date which may be some little time yet ahead.

JAPANESE DEFEAT IN HUNAN.

A drive on Chungking through the tumbled mass of wild mountains south of the Yangtze is hardly feasible. The more obvious route is *via* the Han Valley and to descend into the Szechuan plain through the Hanchung Pass, on the Shensi border. But there were vital objectives nevertheless in the offensive south of the Yangtze which ended in a defeat for the invaders. The chief of them was political. The Japanese offensive synchronised with the appointment of Shigemitsu as Foreign Minister and was primarily designed to test the reaction of the Chungking forces to the "New China policy," to the surrender of Pang Ping-hsun and his 70,000 troops, and to the Allied strategic policy of "Europe first."

The offensive was launched as an experiment, in much the same way as the Japanese employed the purge and other crises in Russia to try out the Red Army in the Far East. It was accompanied by a propaganda offensive, mostly in Chinese. Tokio in Chinese on May 14th proclaimed that the social order under Chungking was jeopardised, that bandits operated in large groups all over the South-West, that crisis had developed between the Szechuan militarists and Chungking and that the Szechuan, Sikang and Yunan militarists had formed an anti-Chiang League ; and that there had been a rupture of relations between Chungking and the Communist régime at Yenan. This form of propaganda was also carried on at the front, for propaganda units followed the troops and distributed handbills among the Chungking troops. Planes were used for the same purpose.

Tokio in Chinese followed up with a broadcast on May 19th stating that Pang-Ping-hsun's circular had caused a panic in high Government circles, and hinting at further large defections by the former Kuominchun and Tungpei troops.

The reasoning on which the Japanese Military acted was clearly given in Tokio broadcasts on June 3rd, quoting military observers in English and "world opinion" in Chinese as holding the theory that Chungking had lost its excuse for the war of resistance since Nanking had declared war on Britain and America, and Japan had adopted the new China policy.

Tokio has had its answer in a definite reverse which has left the Japanese position very much where it was before the offensive was launched, and the "peace move" which was predicted for "not later than September" has already been completely nullified. And most of the Hunan "rice-bowl" remains with Chungking.

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S YEAR.

STRATEGIC GAINS IN PACIFIC DEFENCE.

(*The Times.*)

When General MacArthur arrived in Australia a year ago he was confronted with the urgent problem—How could Australia be defended? Plans existing in Australia at that time envisaged the loss of New Guinea and the islands north of Australia, the loss of Queensland and the Northern Territories, and the establishment of a defensive line running westward from Brisbane—the so-called Brisbane Line. The Japanese strategic objective was the severing of Australia's line of communication with America so that this continent should never become a base for offensive operations. New Guinea at that time was garrisoned by a handful of Australian Militia and native troops. Port Moresby's one airfield was little more than a refuelling station for transports.

Nevertheless General MacArthur determined that the future battle for Australia should be fought in New Guinea and not on Australian soil. The first phase was constructional. American and Australian engineering units and American negro and Papuan labour units went to work with modern machinery. In less than a year the allies had a garrison of many thousands of troops in New Guinea and an elaborate system of airfields from which hundreds of aeroplanes could operate. The capacity of the harbour at Port Morseby had been increased manyfold. It has been a remarkable, almost an incredible, transformation. If much of the credit is due to thousands of nameless workers who toiled night and day, not a little is due to the vision and courage of the Commander-in-Chief.

JAPANESE OBJECTIVES.

The Japanese advance southward was checked in a series of decisive engagements. Early in March a concentration of warships and transports in Huon Gulf was so mauled by bombers from Australia that the drive was delayed for two months. Early in June a much larger concentration, a veritable invasion fleet aiming at the seizure of Port Moresby, the establishment of bases on the Cape York peninsula, and possibly the occupation of New Caledonia, was completely disrupted in the Battle of the Coral Sea by American shorebased and carrier-based bombers.

Still the Japanese High Command would not relinquish their objective. As part of a co-ordinated plan aiming at the occupation of all New Guinea, Japanese forces landed at Gona on July 21 and began to press inland. Others landed near Milne Bay on August 26 to seize that vital strategic point at the south-east tip of Papua. But we had beaten the Japanese in the race to Milne Bay. We were there first. We had seasoned troops there, and we had landing strips and aeroplanes. Moreover, the expedition which the Japanese landed was a weak one, possibly because much of their striking power originally intended for this area had been diverted to the South Solomons, where Marines had landed on August 7.

At Milne Bay the Japanese suffered an unqualified defeat. But that defeat did not prevent them from pushing on with their overland drive towards Port Moresby. They reached a point 32 miles from Port Moresby and then, after an interval of some weeks, were forced to withdraw by three factors—by supply difficulties, by the exhaustion of their troops, and by our local superiority in the air. They fell back towards the north coast only to find that their positions there were threatened from the south-east by

American troops who had been transported, and were being maintained, by air. Unable to evacuate or to escape, the forces of Lieutenant-General Tomitaro Harii were virtually annihilated.

REMARKABLE ENGAGEMENT.

More recently a Japanese attempt to capture Wau, our main advanced base in north east New Guinea, has been successfully repelled and attempts to supply and reinforce the Japanese garrison in the Lae area have been repelled in a victory so complete that it constitutes one of the most remarkable engagements of the entire war.

One of the main factors which brought Japan such phenomenal success in the early stages of the war was her superiority in the air and the integration of the air with the land and sea arms. Japanese aeroplanes achieved Pearl Harbour, and sank the *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*, the *Cornwall*, the *Dorsetshire*, and the *Hermes*. Japanese convoys and advanced Japanese armies fought under an air umbrella. Conversely Japan's defeats have without exception been caused by her failure to achieve that air cover. General MacArthur's strategy in the air has been to push the bomber line forward. A year ago our Fortresses were operating from bases on the Australian mainland. Although they refuelled at Port Moresby, Rabaul was as far from their base as Rome is from London. Later they began to operate from Port Moresby.

The chief strategic objective of the Papuan campaign has been the gaining of air bases on the north coast which would still further increase the range of our aircraft. With each step forward the striking power of the Allied air force has been doubled. It has been like doubling the number of aircraft in this theatre. We learned, too, during the Papuan campaign that aircraft can be used for more than bombardment and strafing; more than the occasional transport of troops or the emergency dropping of supplies. We learned, even with the limited numbers at our disposal, that they can transport whole divisions and keep them supplied with food and munitions day after day and week after week.

A "MAGINOT LINE"

As a result of the checks which Japanese forces have met in the Solomons, in the Central Pacific, at Midway, and in this theatre, they appear to have abandoned, at least for the time being, their former objective of trying to isolate Australia. Instead they are concentrating on building a "Maginot Line" of impregnable defence reaching from Timor through the islands of the Arafura Sea, along the northern littoral of New Guinea, through New Britain and the northern Solomons, then due north to the mandated islands—a line which will be as difficult for us to pierce as the Allied line has been difficult for them to pierce. Night and day they are making landing strips, developing airfields, building blast bays, improving harbour facilities, reinforcing garrisons, and preparing fixed defences. Such beaverlike consolidation serves defensive and offensive needs alike. With each day that passes the task before the Allied nations becomes harder.

The Japanese to-day are in a strong position. They have access to all the essential raw materials they need. They are working on interior lines. They have a powerful army trained in the field and at present nowhere engaged in major operations. In the patriotism and hardihood of the ordinary Japanese soldier and sailor they have a great defensive asset. They have the vast and industrious labour reserve of Asia at their command. They need use few, if any, first-line troops for maintaining order in the occupied regions, and can concentrate their strength on their perimeter. They have a chain of air

bases which permits fighters to be flown from the factories to the Pacific front in less than a week, or a fleet of bombers to be transferred from Manchuria to Burma in the same period.

THE WAY TO VICTORY.

But if the Japanese are strong in most respects they are weak in others. There are chinks in their armour. First, there are reasons for supposing that Japan's reserves of merchant shipping, on which she depends for the maintenance of these hundreds of garrisons in the Pacific, are not unlimited. Secondly, and far more important, there are good reasons for thinking that Japan's potentialities in the air do not begin to compare with those of the Allied nations. We can invent better types ; we can build 10 planes to Japan's one ; we can turn out more and better pilots.

How can we best turn this weakness to our advantage ? The Japanese themselves would dearly like to know the answer to this question, which is properly one for the experts and commanders to answer. It will be remembered that General MacArthur himself, when asked to comment on the lessons of the Papuan campaign, declared that the way to victory lay through new and broadened strategic and tactical conceptions ; that air-power, combined with land-power and supported by seapower, permitted the application of " swift, massive strokes, " and that such new methods would eliminate the neccessity for costly island-to-island advances.

The south-west Pacific has been a holding front during the past year. If territorial advances have been made both in the South Solomons and in Papua, they have been in the nature of defensive offensives, aiming at the consolidation of the Allied defence line and the protection of vital lines of communication south of it. The forces under General MacArthur's command and those in the south Pacific have done no more than halt the Japanese advance. Whether this front continues to hold will depend on two things—on the strength which the enemy is able to build up against it, and on the forces made available to this area. If the Commander-in-Chief and the generals under him have achieved so much with so little, big things may be expected when eventually it proves possible to assemble the full measure of Allied striking power in this part of the world.

BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO DOMAIN OF IDEAS.

Life.

Unless the United States unscrambles its present confused thinking about the post-war era, British influence will be the predominating influence in peacetime.

Britain cannot match the huge resources of Russia in materials and man-power, but she has outmatched Russia and everyone else with her wits.

One of Britain's biggest contributions towards the war has been the export of ideas, some of them indispensable to victory. The most obvious British ideas have been technological—that is, ideas in applied science.

The list of British inventions and technical developments during the last few years is amazing. In the early days of the war, for instance, the Germans took to planting magnetic mines in British waters, but in an incredibly short while, the British had devised what they called a degaussing apparatus, which completely countered this threat.

The British Spitfire broke new ground in designs of fighting planes and the Rolls Royce engine remains the most highly developed, liquid cooled power plant in the world. The British have invented a new type of delayed action bomb, mine detectors and lifesaving devices, and a new kind of still to make drinking water from sea water in life boats and so forth.

They have made enormous advances in the science of explosives and their most spectacular development is radio location by means of which it is possible to 'see' ships and aeroplanes far beyond the range of the most powerful binoculars and even through mist and cloud.

The United States has shared in the development of radio location but the British pioneered it. And Britain's germination of ideas goes farther than technology. Her contribution to the United Nations strategy is evidently very great. Then too she has put forth various political ideas. She has a 20 year's pact with Russia, the keystone to almost any future European settlements.

Mr. Churchill has been a potent spokesman for the Allies, especially in his characterisation of the war as a great struggle against the forces of evil, and on the practical side as a possible solution for the future, he has suggested setting up of councils for Europe and Asia.

In addition, the British have developed various economic ideas which are bound to influence the future. The Beveridge Plan for social security from the cradle to the grave puts social security on a scientific basis instead of a political basis which made shambles of it in the United States. The British have learned to give labour a real position in the Government and the British labour in its turn has accepted the incentive system in certain vital industries which enables those who produce most to earn most. Finally, the great British economist Lord Keynes has presented a new plan for stabilising international exchange, to the end that small war-stricken countries may rehabilitate themselves without disastrous inflation.

ITALY'S THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR.

"War is to man as maternity is to woman."

"The legend that Italians are not fighters must be dispelled."

—*Mussolini's Speeches*

(A) MUSSOLINI'S HOPES.

When Italy entered the war on June 10, 1940, the Fascists counted on a short war and an early victory. The blow was well-timed, for France lay prostrate at the feet of the invader and the position of the British Fleet seemed precarious in the Mediterranean. Italy could strike out in the African continent to conquer Egypt and to oust the British from Somaliland. Strongly entrenched in Albania and the Adriatic coast, Greece and all that lay beyond in the east, seemed within easy grasp.

HOPES ARE DUPES.

(1) Africa

BRAGGING CAESAR.

"Italian success in Haifa, Zeila, Kenya, Sudan and British Somaliland have dealt a death-blow to the British."

—*Rome Radio*, 12-8-40.

LIES COME HOME TO ROOST.

"The Emperor of Abyssinia sits again on the throne from which he was driven by Mussolini's poison gas."

—*Mr. Churchill*, 19-5-43.

BRAGGING CAESAR.

"Italy is now able to occupy Aden and to cut Britain off from her Eastern Empire."

—*Rome Radio*, 12–8–40.

"Mussolini has started an offensive against Britain's oversea Empire. He wants to destroy British prestige. It is Mussolini's aim to establish an Italian Empire between the Mediterranean and the Equator."

—*Berlin Radio*, 13–8–40.

"Only a miracle can save England from defeat in three weeks."

—*Berlin Radio*, 29–8–40.

LIES COME HOME TO ROOST.

"All the vast territories from Madagascar to Morocco, from Cairo to Casablanca, from Aden to Dakar are under British, American and French control."

—*Mr. Churchill*, 19–5–43.

The African excursion of the two Dictators has cost them

950,000	...	men in killed and captured.
70,000	...	trucks
8,000	...	aircraft
6,200	...	guns
2,550	...	tanks
2,400,000 tons	...	of shipping.

Mussolini has lost an Empire in Africa thirteen times the size of Italy, at the cost of some 700,000 men.

(2) The Mediterranean

THEN

"It is prophesied that the British fleet will soon leave the Mediterranean."

—*Rome Radio*, 3–8–40.

"Italian aircraft have brought to an end all British navigation in the Mediterranean."

—*Berlin Radio*, 29–8–40.

"Italy will be heiress of all possessions which border on her colonies in the Mediterranean and the Near East."

—*Sgr. Signoretti, 1941.*

"Italy is the mistress of the air and sea in the Mediterranean."

—*Giornale d'Italia*, 12–2–42.

NOW

Estimated tonnage of Italian merchant shipping sunk since the beginning of the war to Feb. 1943 is 4,027,000 gross tons.

—*Lord Bruntisifield in the House of Lords*, 1–4–43.

Taranto and Matapan are recurring nightmares for the Italian Navy. Mussolini's seven shy battleships dare not appear in the open.

Out of the 24 million tons of merchandise which Italy imported before the war, only four million were received by land. Of the 20 million, 16 million came through the Straits of Gibraltar, two million through the Suez Canal, and the rest either through the Black Sea, the Adriatic or the remaining ports of the Mediterranean. Today both the Straits and the Suez Canal are closed by the Allied Navy and the Mediterranean is no longer safe for navigation.

(3) The Balkans

DUCE'S DAY DREAMS.

When Italy seized Albania and treacherously invaded the brave little nation of Greece, Mussolini hoped to turn the whole of South Eastern Europe into a Fascist sphere of influence.

HOW THEY HAVE VANISHED.

Italian casualty figures in Albania, Greece and Yugoslavia reach the four figure mark nearly every month. Italian official figures for 1942 show that the number of killed in the Balkans is slightly higher than those in North Africa and only just below the number of killed in Russia.

The Duke of Spoleto has not dared sit on his throne in Croatia.

In Rumania Hitler has taken away the much needed oil.

Hungary has become a German sphere of fluence.

The coast of Dalmatia is contested by the Nazis.

(B) MUSSOLINI AT BAY.

Having lost an Empire and seen the elimination of a very large army in North Africa, and the virtual destruction of another on the Russian front, and being aware that still another is doing police work in the Balkans, Mussolini cuts a miserable figure before his own people and the rest of the world. But yesterday his word might have stood against the world: now he lies and there is none so poor to do him reverence. With bitter irony he has to eat back the words he so defiantly flung before the world: the alliance with Germany has brought his country to a sorry pass.

Invasion Fears

CONFIDENT CAESER.

"Great Britain has not revealed a marked warlike tendency for the past few years."

—*Mussolini.*

"The Second Front will be opened neither here nor in any part of the world."

Mussolini, 3-8-42.

"Sicily is so well defended on land, at sea and in the air that it would be folly for anyone to attempt to invade her. One of the happiest epochs in her 4,000 years of history now begins for her as the *geographical centre of the Empire.*"

—*Mussolini in 1936.*

"We have noticed that for some time spirits have been somewhat low in England ......Between fear of invasion and fear of famine, the English do not know what to do or what to choose."

—*Commentator Aldo Valori, on the Rome Radio 15-1-43.*

DEFLATED DUCE.

"The Eighth Army represents the most modern and most powerful force to be found to-day in the different chess boards of this world war."

—*Rome Radio, 14-4-43.*

"The situation is grave—The War zone is gradually getting nearer Italy. We must be prepared to face very hard times."

—*Rome Radio, 12-4-43.*

"The two islands of Sicily and Sardinia constitute the strategic *outward wall of Southern Europe* and the key system of the *Axis defensive position* of the European Continent in the war against the Anglo-Saxon Empires."

—*Rome Radio, 6-4-43*

"Nobody can deny that Italy's position is difficult. Her Empire is lost and a materially stronger enemy stands on the southern coast of the Mediterranean."

—*The Nazi Count Hans Reiskhack, May 1943.*

"*It would be a bad day for Germany's future, if she had to rely on a nation like Italy in her hour of need.*"

—Hitler to Rauschnigg.

"*It may be permissible to count on the aid of an eventual ally, but it is not wise to count as well on every possible assistance from him.*"

—Marshal Badoglio, December 23, 1940.

SUMMER OFFENSIVE: WHY GERMANY IS DELAYING

(1) *The Daily Telegraph.*

For some time past both Russia and Germany have seen indications of large-scale attack by the other on different parts of the long front.

Yet, according to the standard of the last year, the 1943 campaign is several weeks late. It was May 8, 1942, when the Germans started the offensive which captured the Crimea and penetrated across the Kerch Straits into the Caucasus.

No student of Hitler's intuitions can deny the possibility that he still hopes to reach the Caucasus oilfields, but a sounder reason for the German defence of the bridgehead is that its loss might well enable the Russians to recover the Crimea and strike at the German rear in the Ukraine.

All over Russia the season is earlier than last year. Why have major operations been delayed?

From Leningrad to the Black Sea, the Russians have harassed German forces continuously and effectively by guerilla action and air attacks on supplies and communications. The *Luftwaffe* has also been busy, though its decline is apparent in such figures as those from the recent Kuban fighting in which 131 German planes were destroyed against 35 Russian.

To concentrate forces for a grand offensive is more difficult than ever for both sides. Germany's enormous losses of men and material cannot be made good with the German industry mutilated. Russia also has grave problems, though her own factories, beyond the reach of the Wehrmacht, are working well and she has received a flow of supplies from her allies.

Germany has still 190 divisions on the Russian front. There was, therefore, the clear reason that the Washington discussions should make it the first principle of the American-British strategy "to take more weight off Russia." The coming storm of the German desperation is likely to be violent, but the Allies have air and land strength which can stretch the Wehrmacht to the breaking point.

(2) The Daily Express—Istanbul correspondent.

TUNISIA UPSETS GERMAN PLANS.

There are indications that Axis agents are busy preparing the Axis public for the delay in Hitler's much publicised summer offensive against Russia.

While this may be bluff, confidential reports reaching here from Bucharest suggest that Axis offensive plans for 1943 were based on the calculation that Tunis and Bizerta would be held until the end of July. There is ample evidence from the same source that the German High Command had estimated that at least two months must elapse after the completion of Allied conquest of Tunisia in resting, regrouping and refitting before the invasion of Italy or Greece is possible.

OFFENSIVE ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

By that time, it was hoped, that Russia, following an offensive, originally planned to be launched as early as May 16, would have been badly knocked about. This would have permitted safe withdrawal of large forces from the eastern front to defend the Mediterranean frontiers of Hitler's European fortress.

The fall of Tunisia at least two and a half months before the date calculated by the German High Command brought forward the estimated date of Allied invasion to July instead of September. It left only two months for the delivery of the blow against Russia that was a necessary preliminary to the safe withdrawal of troops to the south.

There is a widely held belief among the Balkan military experts to-day that following the events in Africa, Hitler's generals, in particular Keitel, Chief of Staff, have sought to veto the Fuehrer's original plans for an all-out offensive against Russia. They favour a series of heavy local attacks aimed primarily at preventing development of a major Russian drive.

NEW LINE OF PROPAGANDA.

There is no evidence yet as to whether these counsels have prevailed over those favouring the original offensive, but the appearance of a new line of propaganda during the last few days suggests that the Keitel group may have got the upper hand.

This new line is that Russia's internal situation, in particular shortage of food, is such that the German armies have only to continue to hold the present front line with strong local attacks for internal collapse to do their work for them without heavy human sacrifices. As an evidence too of the alleged decline in Russian factory production, it is asserted that lately little but British and American material has been in use on the eastern front.

(3) The Daily Express.

NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STRIKE.

Explanations differ but the fact remains that for some reason the enemy is anxious to stress that he will remain on the defensive in Russia.

It could of course be an elaborate bluff to persuade the Allies that the German army is being redisposed to meet new threats in Europe in the west and the east. It is known—Mr. Churchill recently disclosed it—that there are 190 German and 29 Satellite divisions facing the Red Army. Any changes on a big scale in this massive total would quickly become obvious to the Russians.

ATTACK DID NOT COME.

The Russians expected an attack west of Moscow three weeks ago and they were ready to meet it. With a milder winter, the ground was fit for big-scale operations then and the enemy was in a position to attack. The attack did not come. Instead, the German resistance in Tunisia unexpectedly collapsed with the mass surrender of a well-equipped army. That may have been the immediate cause of the postponement of the offensive. The mighty air offensive now being waged by Anglo-American forces plus the sustained attacks by the new long-range Russian bomber force on rail communications may be the reason for the continued postponement.

The fact remains that there is no evidence of a general switch round of German troops. Hitler has some 45 divisions in France, the Low Countries and Norway; 10 in the Balkans and 50 held as a strategic reserve in Germany and Poland. To replace the Italians leaving the Balkans, he is drawing on the strategic reserves.

TELLING THE TRUTH.

In addition there were more than 1,000,000 *Luftwaffe* ground personnel spread over Western Europe and Germany. The Todt Labour organization strenghthening the defences of Europe—this is an able-bodied labour of military rejects—totals 1,400,000 men. It may be, therefcre, that the Berlin propagandists are telling the truth when they announce that there will be no Russian offensive—for the reason that they are not strong enough to undertake it.

A more likely explanation, however, is that the Wehrmacht, now immensely strong in defence, is waiting in the hope that the Red Army will open a full-scale offensive, and so weaken itself that the Germans will then be able to strike back with a good chance of success. But that is not so much dependent on the Russians as on the other Allies.

Invasion at selected points, south and west, would dictate to the Germans their future strategy. It is the Allies main aim to make the Wehrmacht fight sectionally on the battlefields of our choosing. The length of the war depends on our being able to bring that about.

TECHNICAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN FIGHTER AND FIGHTER.

Oliver Stewart

(From a B.B.C. Talk).

Whenever the struggle for air superiority boils up, attention concentrates on the fighter. That is the machine that plays the chief part in deciding whether the bombers will be able to work in the daylight; whether the aerodromes will be kept working; whether the land forces will have protection from enemy bombing; whether the supply columns will get through without serious damage.

In France in 1940 the call was for fighters to hold down the German air force. It was the same in Greece and Crete, the same in the Western Desert, the same in Tunisia.

The first step towards command of the air must be taken by the fighters. The whole of the struggle for air supremacy in this war has revolved round this small, fast machine. We learned the value of a good fighter in the Battle of Britain, and we have never forgotten the lesson.

During that battle, work was being done and plans were being laid, the results of which we are only now beginning to see. Recently, for instance, the Ministry of Aircraft Production released some details of the new Merlin engine. This engine gives more power and gives it higher up than the Merlins of the Spitfires and Hurricanes of the Battle of Britain. It gives the Spitfire yet another step up in performance and keeps it ahead of the enemy's fighters.

TO DESIGN AND DEVELOP.

It is a tremendous technical struggle this, between fighter and fighter. So much depends on it that all the countries at war lavish their treasure without stint on those who can give a little more power and a little more speed and a little more climb to the fighters. But no amount of government encouragement can produce better fighters unless the ability exists in the country to design and to develop. And of the two things I would say that development is not only the more laborious and the more trying to those engaged on it, but the more difficult.

R. J. Mitchell gave us a piece of sheer inspiration in the Spitfire. It is, perhaps, the supreme example of design in all aviation history. You only have to look at a Spitfire to know that it is right. But the Germans, with their excellent Focke-Wulf 190, would have gone on ahead of the Spitfire and would have challenged our fighter supremacy by now had it not been for the development work done on the Spitfire and more especially on the Merlin engine.

FASTER HURRICANES.

The Hurricane has also been intensively developed since the Battle of Britain days, but in a different way from the Spitfire. It has been developed so that it can undertake all kinds of special jobs, such as bombing and low-level attack. To do these things its weight has had to be put up more and more. But although bombs have been hung on it, the development work has been so sound that to-day it is a good deal faster than in its original form.

Development, then, is the thing on which the Royal Air Force has largely relied to maintain its fighter supremacy. The engine and aircraft companies have never ceased from trying to squeeze more speed and more climb from their machines. New types are

of course in production. But although some of them are wonderful pieces of design, they have to take a huge step forward if they are to surpass the highly developed old types. In fact, some fighter pilots have expressed the view to me that at the end of the war the Spitfire with its Merlin engine will still be the best fighter in the sky.

The battles that are fought with speed and climb in the upper air are fought by the engineers and designers as well as by the pilots. And upon them depends the outcome of all other air operations.

THE FIRST ATTACK.

Nearly always, when an attack is launched on an enemy formation, it is first directed at the escorting fighters. That happened when Allied fighters attacked enemy air convoys between Tunisia and Sicily. It happens in the opposite sense over France when formations of Allied machines go out to attack war industries. When the enemy tackles our fighter-escorted bomber formations he goes for the fighters before, or at the same time as, he tackles the bombers. The fighters always determine the pattern of the tactics. They are the mainspring of air superiority and supremacy.

I don't think that it is underestimating the enemy or failing to recognize the work of the German engineer, Kurt Tank—who designed the Focke-Wulf 190—to say that they have never yet surpassed Spitfire standards.

I sometimes wonder whether future historians will not place the part played by the fighter in this war—and especially by the Spitfire—on an even higher level of importance than we put it to day. This much can be said: that where there have been Spitfires, the Allies have always had air superiority. That has applied right up to the North African landings, when the Seafires—which are simply the naval version of the Spitfire—covered the operations.

If it is true that in air war it all depends on the fighter, then the Allies have been and are well placed.

EMERGENCE OF OUTSTANDING ALLIED GENERALS.

L. S. B. Shapiro.

(*From a B. B. C. talk*).

Such names as Rommel, von Arnim, von Bock, von Mannstein and von Rundstedt have become familiar words, and they have been endowed by our imaginations with powers and abilities they hardly possess. It is a curious circumstance, but it is perhaps true, that German generals were better known to the people of the Western democracies than our own field commanders.

The importance of discussing our military leaders lies in the remarkable manner in which the Western democracies have developed outstanding generals during the last two years. We are fortunate, because in peacetime we pay little attention and give small encouragement to our promising soldiers. We go into war therefore with a definite inferiority complex about our field commanders.

NEW LEADERS.

To-day, after three years of war, there is no longer a basis for our inferiority complex; out of our quickly developed armies have emerged military leaders in whom we can place thefullest faith, and to whom we can entrust the lives of our finest youths.

At the outbreak of war, so far as the public was concerned, Britain had only one field commander with a reputation high enough to stand against the legendary Germans: he was *General Sir Archibald Wavell.* When Pearl Harbour brought the United States into the war, the Americans had only one general with capacity to hold the public imagination. He was, of course, *General Douglas MacArthur*, now Allied Commander in the South-West Pacific.

To-day, we can look upon the list of our field commanders with vast comfort. We have, for instance, the man who exploded the legend of Field Marshal Rommel and left it strewn all over the Western Desert: he is *General Sir Harold Alexander*, the fighting North Irishman who looks like Clarke Gable, organises with the genius of a Henry Ford and can hit like Dempsey.

It was Alexander who organized the last desperate stand before Dunkirk; he was the last general officer to leave the French shore, and he may well be the first Allied general to step once more upon the battlefield of Europe.

The story of Alexander's rise to greatness has been paralleled by the development of *General Montgomery* of the Eighth Army. He too is a product of the emergency of this war. Virtually unknown a year ago outside British military circles, Montgomery has become probably the most popular British general in the last 30 years. The cheers his name attracts in Britain are paralleled by the terror it invokes among the Germans and Italians he has defeated.

As a result of the unprecedented smoothness with which the vastly complicated Allied landing in North Africa was effected, America's *General Eisenhower* joins the gallery of great Allied commanders. He, too, is an emergency development. Two years ago he was just a Colonel in the War Department in Washington; to-day he is a full General in charge of the whole North African theatre.

CANADIAN HERO.

Another Allied commander who has come to grip the imagination of the British public is Canada's *Lieut. General MacNaughton.* He has not yet directed action against the enemy, but the manner in which he has built the Canadian Army into a mechanized force of immense striking power has made him a prominent figure in all our military speculation.

There are many other fine soldiers who have come to earn the respect and confidence of our free people. All of them prove, I think, that our cause has been favoured by that same grand stroke of fate which placed two such men of destiny as Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill in posts of leadership at a moment of history when our civilization was most gravely threatened.

WILL THE AXIS ATTACK TURKEY?

by

LEONARD KIRSCHEN.

"What is Turkey going to do?" must be the question that everybody is asking in the Axis camp. Turkey's main policy remains unchanged, that is, if other countries' policy towards Turkey also remains unchanged. There is a Turkish proverb: "Chase a trapped cat in a locked room with a stick, and it becomes a tiger." This cat is now Germany. Germany's satellites are also mad cats.

What are the chances of an attack on Turkey by the mad cats of Europe? In any case, there can be no talk of Turkish aggression, and therefore it is an Axis attack that is most likely to bring Turkey into the war. Germany is in no position to do this herself. Decidedly, Hitler himself cannot do it. Can Mussolini do it?

HE CAN'T.

It is known here that Italy has for some time been trying to bring her own occupation armies back to Italy, and leave the butchering and policing of the occupied Balkan countries to the Germans and Bulgarians. But Germany is not inclined to take all this upon herself. The returning Italian armies may also demoralize the Italian population, and form the nucleus of a ferment which could lead to open revolt. Italy cannot spare more troops. She cannot send more troops to the Russian front; she has to defend herself. She cannot, therefore, spare any for an attack on Turkey.

This is the time and place to recall an anecdote which is told here of Kemal Ataturk. During talks with his friends, he tried always to lay down some hard and fast rules which constitute his political testament. He once said: "If Turkey wants to become a great Power she must war with a great Power and obtain a smashing victory. The only Power that I can see we could attack and smash is Italy." The Italians know this only too well. With the example of the Greek campaign behind them, they know what their fate will be if they attack Turkey.

But there is Bulgaria, and it is just possible that Hitler told King Boris at Salzburg to try and probe Turkish reactions, and see what the chances are. Bulgaria can put about 30 divisions in the field, and with German air support and technical co-operation may give Turkey a fight.

Germany is trying to give the Allies the impression that she has lost her grip on the Balkan satellites. She is trying to create the illusion that the Balkans are the weakest spot in Europe's underbelly, because she knows that a successful invasion of Italy may spell disaster.

POWERLESS SATELLITES.

At the same time a new conflagration in the Eastern Mediterranean might help to postpone any Allied plans for the rest of Europe. That is why the possibility of Bulgaria attacking Turkey is not excluded from Turkish calculations. Of course, they all know that the game is up, but all the satellite countries are so firmly in the grip of the Axis that they cannot move and cannot fight without their help, without German arms and without the *Luftwaffe* behind them, or, as the case may be, against them.

None of these diversions are likely to make either the United Nations or Turkey go out of their set course. From here, we cannot say what the Allies intend doing, but we know that Turkey is not likely to change her active policy in the next few weeks. It all depends, of course, on what Turkey's neighbours will do.

But one thing is certain, and that is, that Turkey is now more prepared than ever. Turkey is now spending more than £ (T) 2,000,000 a day on her army, navy and air force. Before attacking Turkey, King Boris will have to consider these figures, and if by chance he comes to the wrong conclusion and attacks, Turkey will be ready, and—who knows—perhaps Turkey's contribution will help to finish the war a few days earlier.

"RED" MEANS "BEAUTIFUL."

I had always thought that the word "Red" in Red Army had some specific association with the traditional redness of revolutionary politics. It seems, however, that this is not so. Walter Duranty, who has long experience of Soviet Russia as a newspaper correspondent, makes that point very clear in his 'The Kremlin and the People', a book I have just been reading.

The word in Russian is "Krasny" which has the same root-derivation as the word "Kraseevy"—"beautiful"—because red is the colour of life and sun, and warmth in the blood, on the ice-bound Russian plains; and white is the colour of death and mourning and frozen snow......That is why they call it the "Red Army", meaning the "splendid and glorious army."

Its record has become a good deal more splendid and glorious since those words were written in 1941. But on that explanation of the adjective which attaches to it even the most timid of Right-wingers need have no hesitation in saluting the wonderfully successful Soviet forces under their generally accepted name.

Strictly speaking, it appears to have no more to do with revolution than the phrase "a thin red line topped with a streak of steel" which a newspaperman created for British troops in the Crimea.

BULLOCK SHOES.

MADRAS PRESS COMMUNIQUÈ.

(23rd June 1943).

The attention of Government has been drawn to a recent magazine article in which it was suggested by a correspondent that the campaign instituted by Government to encourage the collection of bullock shoes from the roads of the Presidency by school children and boy scouts was not meeting with success and that difficulties were made in granting the reward of one anna for six bullock shoes when the shoes were not whole shoes.

This suggestion is not borne out by the facts. In February, when the scheme was started, rewards were paid for 25,055 shoes collected, in March for 115,108 and in April for 131,994. Recently the permanent advances of all Secretaries of Road Traffic Board. have been trebled in order that they may have ample funds from which to pay rewards. Soon after the scheme started Government issued orders that whole bullock shoes need not be blindly insisted on and that the reward should be paid so long as shoes had not obviously been cut in two to make a double claim, and local authorities have recently been reminded of this.

The Government are glad to note that the efforts of members of the NATIONAL WAR FRONT have greatly contributed to the success of the scheme.

The Government would also remind the motoring public that it is very exceptional for a bullock shoe to damage a tyre very seriously unless the vehicle is travelling at high speed, and that a speed limit of 35 miles per hour has recently been imposed to secure economy in tyre consumption.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CLIII. (*Batch 6*)

3- 7-43	Municipal Office ...	6.00 p.m.
4- 7-43	Kilanilai ...	7.00 „
„	Kilanilai-Puduppatti..	7.30 „
5- 7-43	Perumanadu ...	7.00 „
„	Pulvayal ...	7.30 „
6- 7-43	Sadayampatti ...	7.00 „
„	Oliyamangalam ...	7.30 „
7- 7-43	Annavasal ...	7.00 p.m.
„	Kilakkurichchi ...	7.30 „
8- 7-43	Malampatti ...	7.00 „
„	Perambur ...	7.30 „
9- 7-43	Alavayal ...	7.00 „
„	Ammankurichchi ...	7.30 „

LECTURE CLIV (*Batch 1*).

10- 7-43	Municipal Office ...	6.00 p.m.
11- 7-43	Kiranur ...	7.00 „
„	Nanjur ...	7.30 „
12- 7-43	Puvarasakudi ...	7.00 „
„	Venkatakulam ...	7.30 „
13- 7-43	Perungalur ...	7.00 „
„	Adanakkottai ...	7.30 „
14- 7-43	Pungudi ...	7.00 p.m
„	Satyamangalam.. ...	7.30 „
15- 7-43	Mirattunilai ...	7.00 „
„	Arimalam ...	7.30 „
16- 7-43	Udayalippatti ...	7.00 „
„	Killukottai ...	7.30 „

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

3—7—43	Vettamviduthi.
4—7—43	Kodumbalur.
5—7—43	Viralimalai.
6—7—43	Ramachandrapuram.
7—7—43	Karambakkudi.
8—7—43	Kulipirai.
9—7—43	Pudukkottai.
10—7—43	Ponnamaravathi.
11—7—43	Virachchilai.
12—7—43	Arimalam.
13—7—43	Kudumiyamalai.
14—7—43	Rayavaram.
15—7—43	Alangudi.
16—7—43	Pudukkottai.

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